



U.S.D.A. Forest Service Research Note SE-96

October 1968

A PREVIEW OF "SOUTH CAROLINA'S TIMBER, 1968"

Abstract.--A fourth survey of South Carolina's timber resource shows that over the past 10 years the area of commercial forest land has increased by 4 percent and the volume of growing-stock timber by 19 percent. In 1967, net growth of growing stock exceeded removals by over 200 million cubic feet, or 48 percent.

The fourth Statewide survey of South Carolina's timber resource was completed in July 1968, and a statistical report has been issued on each of the three Forest Survey Units within the State: Piedmont, Northern Coastal Plain, and Southern Coastal Plain. As work continues on a more comprehensive analysis of the findings, scheduled for publication in early 1969, this interim report establishes some of the State totals and meets the more immediate demands for the new data.

When compared with the 1958 findings, substantial improvement was measured in most of the vital components of the timber resource--forest area, timber volume, and net growth. For example, area of commercial forest land increased from 11.9 to 12.4 million acres, or 4 percent, during the 10-year remeasurement period; and volume of growing stock increased from 10.3 to over 12.2 billion cubic feet, or 19 percent.

Even more significant than the increases in forest area and timber volume is the finding that net annual growth of growing stock now exceeds annual removals by over 200 million cubic feet, or 48 percent. This means that existing forest industry within South Carolina can expand to meet increasing demands for timber products without the risk of reducing the inventory at the present time. With this margin of growth over removal, certain areas in the State afford the opportunity for the introduction of new wood-using plants and thereby enable the timber resource to make a greater contribution to the economy. Knowledge is lacking, however, on just how much of the apparent surplus in growth is available. Breakdowns of the data by ownership, as shown in this report, provide the best guides for the decisionmakers.

Farmer and miscellaneous private ownership classes make up 75 percent of the commercial forest land in South Carolina. Forest industry holdings total 16 percent, and the remaining 9 percent is on National Forest and other public lands (table 1). Although forest industry, National Forest, and other public holdings make up only one-fourth of the area of commercial forest land, they provide almost one-third of both the

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Table 1.--Area of commercial forest land, by ownership class, by forest type, and by stand size, 1968

Ownership class	Forest type					Stand size		
	All types		All stands					
			Oak- pine	Upland hardwood	Bottomland hardwood	Sawtimber	Poletimber	Sapling and Nonstocked seedling areas
----- Thousand acres -----								
National Forest	550.9	362.2	90.0	43.1	55.6	550.9	368.0	136.9
Other public	522.3	311.8	64.0	85.2	61.3	522.3	213.6	132.9
Forest industry	2,047.4	1,012.3	263.1	271.9	500.1	2,047.4	880.0	511.4
Farmer	4,995.6	1,861.9	966.9	1,204.6	962.2	4,995.6	2,001.3	1,337.4
Miscellaneous private	4,294.5	1,976.1	740.8	1,052.6	525.0	4,294.5	1,444.7	1,360.8
All ownerships	12,410.7	5,524.3	2,124.8	2,657.4	2,104.2	12,410.7	4,907.6	3,649.4
								398.5

Table 2.--Volume of growing stock and sawtimber on commercial forest land, by ownership class and species group, 1968

Ownership class	Growing stock					Sawtimber				
	All species		All species							
			Pine	Other softwood	Soft hardwood	Hard hardwood	Pine	Other softwood	Soft hardwood	Hard hardwood
----- Million cubic feet ----- Million board feet ^{1/} -----										
National Forest	889.9	583.9	38.9	156.6	110.5	2,951.7	2,162.2	129.8	396.6	263.1
Other public	500.6	301.6	11.2	103.2	84.6	1,442.6	955.2	34.4	246.8	206.2
Forest industry	2,526.0	1,088.8	161.8	782.5	492.9	7,262.1	3,229.0	578.0	2,107.8	1,347.3
Farmer	4,651.8	1,990.7	189.2	1,452.8	1,019.1	13,445.1	6,668.1	625.4	3,717.9	2,433.7
Miscellaneous private	3,682.6	1,618.6	121.1	961.1	981.8	9,914.1	4,671.6	413.5	2,535.9	2,293.1
All ownerships	12,250.9	5,583.6	522.2	3,456.2	2,688.9	35,015.6	17,686.1	1,781.1	9,005.0	6,543.4

^{1/} International 1/4-inch rule.

Table 3.--Net annual growth of growing stock and sawtimber on commercial forest land,
by ownership class and species group, 1967

Ownership class	Growing stock					Sawtimber				
	All species	Pine	Other softwood	Soft hardwood	Hard hardwood	All species	Pine softwood	Other softwood	Soft hardwood	Hard hardwood
	- - - - Million cubic feet - - - -					- - - - Million board feet - - - -				
National Forest	41.9	30.5	1.5	5.3	4.6	156.1	124.1	4.5	15.4	12.1
Other public	30.8	22.2	0.4	4.5	3.7	104.7	80.4	1.1	13.3	9.9
Forest industry	136.6	85.9	5.1	25.9	19.7	454.3	297.7	16.7	81.4	58.5
Farmer	241.4	136.1	4.9	53.5	46.9	781.9	473.5	19.4	169.8	119.2
Miscellaneous private	203.8	121.8	4.0	34.5	43.5	596.3	366.4	13.9	101.2	114.8
All ownerships	654.5	396.5	15.9	123.7	118.4	2,093.3	1,342.1	55.6	381.1	314.5

Table 4.--Annual removals of growing stock and sawtimber on commercial forest land,
by ownership class and species group, 1967

Ownership class	Growing stock					Sawtimber				
	All species	Pine	Other softwood	Soft hardwood	Hard hardwood	All species	Pine softwood	Other softwood	Soft hardwood	Hard hardwood
	- - - - Million cubic feet - - - -					- - - - Million board feet - - - -				
National Forest	18.1	17.5	--	0.4	0.2	67.6	65.5	--	1.5	0.6
Other public	7.8	4.7	--	1.1	2.0	22.6	12.8	--	2.5	7.3
Forest industry	106.3	70.7	3.7	20.1	11.8	355.6	235.6	17.0	67.9	35.1
Farmer	177.2	96.3	7.0	49.0	24.9	619.7	359.8	28.4	163.0	68.5
Miscellaneous private	132.3	85.6	2.2	25.9	18.6	412.2	253.3	6.8	91.0	61.1
All ownerships	441.7	274.8	12.9	96.5	57.5	1,477.7	927.0	52.2	325.9	172.6

inventory volume and net growth of growing stock (tables 2 and 3). This finding indicates that these lands are responding to somewhat more intensive management than is generally practiced on the farmer and miscellaneous private ownerships. As one might expect, however, a disproportionately large share of the removals is coming from forest industry lands and, to a lesser extent, from farmer-owned lands. As a result, there is a relatively narrow margin of net growth over removals in these two ownership categories, compared to the margin on National Forest, other public, and miscellaneous private lands.

Another significant finding pertaining to the growth-removal ratio emerges from a breakdown of the data by species group (tables 3 and 4). Pine and the hard-textured hardwoods account for almost 86 percent of the excess growth over removals, which leaves a very slim margin between the growth and removals for the soft-textured hardwoods and the other softwoods, such as cypress.

The forthcoming State report will contain an in-depth analysis of these and other findings.

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